

NEW DELAY LOOMS FOR EXPRESSWAY

Relocation Plan for Lower Manhattan Project Needed

By **CHARLES G. BENNETT**

A need for further specific relocation plans appeared last night likely to delay again the Board of Estimate's approval of land acquisition for the Lower Manhattan Crosstown Expressway.

On June 26 the board deferred action to Aug. 25, directing that James Felt, chairman of the City Planning Commission, and Herman Badillo, deputy commissioner of Real Estate for Relocation, submit a report on that date, giving details of plans for relocating the 2,100 families in the expressway's path.

Mayor Wagner said at the time that the board favored the long-deferred road "in principle." But the board members were deeply concerned, Mr. Wagner said, over the arguments of community groups and others that uprooted families would face unbearable hardships in relocating.

The \$100,000,000 expressway, designed to relieve traffic in lower Manhattan, was first projected twenty years ago. The Board of Estimate approved the expressway route two years ago. The artery is slated to be paid for 90 per cent by the Federal Government and 10 per cent by the state.

Last night Mr. Badillo, who is scheduled to become the first Commissioner of a contemplated new city Department of Relocation after next Jan. 1, dis-

closed that he had requested a delay beyond next Thursday to permit him to work out an orderly program for relocating the families.

The entire expressway construction is slated to take four years. Mr. Badillo asserted that since some housing probably must be built for families to be moved in the later stages, it was imperative that new housing construction be planned before expressway property was condemned.

Mr. Badillo's request for more time for his relocation study became known after Mrs. Jane Jacobs, author on municipal planning, had charged that the relocation report was being unnecessarily delayed "because of political considerations."

Mrs. Jacobs, writing as chairman of the Joint Committee to Stop the Lower Manhattan Expressway, asked Mayor Wagner in a letter to bring about Board of Estimate defeat of the expressway next Thursday, "as you implied you would in case no feasible relocation plan were then produced."